

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 260815Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8260

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TOKYO 2477

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN U.S. MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE

REF: TOKYO 1940 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. EMBASSY REPORTS OUTLINE OF PROPOSED MILITARY
COMMAND CHANGES AND IN CONCERT WITH COMUSJAPAN REQUESTS
URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIEF GOJ BEFORE THESE PLANS
REVEALED TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED FEBRUARY 26 BY COMUSJAPAN OF
OUTLINE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN U.S. MILITARY COMMAND
STRUCTURE IN JAPAN. EMBASSY ALSO, AT REQUEST OF COMUSJAPAN,
CLEARED USFJ MSG WHICH URGENTLY REQUESTS JCS APPROVAL TO
BRIEF GOJ ON THESE IMPENDING CHANGES UNDER AUSPICES OF
USFJ-JSO JOINT SEMINAR ON MILITARY SIDE AND AT APPROPRIATE
LEVEL OF FOREIGN OFFICE ON POLITICAL SIDE. USFJ MESSAGE
NOTES PLAN TO BRIEF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON THESE
CHANGES MARCH 1, AND THEREFORE PROPOSES TO CONDUCT
INITIAL BRIEFINGS OF GOJ FEBRUARY 28.

2. AS INDICATED IN OUR COMMENTS REF A, EMBASSY STRONGLY
ENDORSES COMUSJAPAN CALL FOR AUTHORITY TO BRIEF GOJ IN
ADVANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED
TO RESULT IN PUBLIC RELEASE OF AT LEAST PART OF THE
INFORMATION. IT IS NOT A SIMPLE COURTESY TO A FRIENDLY

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GOVERNMENT, BUT IT IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR LONG

TERM REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN GOJ UNDERSTANDING AND
ACCEPTANCE OF OUR SECURITY OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION
RECEIVED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. U.S. ARMY FORCES IN JAPAN:

-- HQ USARG/IX CORPS WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE
COMMAND OF ALL ARMY UNITS ASSIGNED/ATTACHED IN JAPAN

--USAGO, USAGH AND USAMED WILL BE DISESTABLISHED.

-- USA CORE FACILITIES TO REMAIN: CAMP ZAMA/
SAGAMIHARA DEPENDENT HOUSING AREA, SAGAMI
GENERAL DEPOT, AKIZUKI AMMO DEPOT COMPLEX,
YOKOHAMA NORTH PIER, MAKIMINATO SERVICE
AREA, AND KADENA AMMO STORAGE AREA.

B. U.S. AIR FORCES IN JAPAN:

-- USA PERSONNEL STRENGTH TO BE REDUCED
EVENTUALLY TO APPROX. 900 MILITARY AND
4,300 INDIRECT HIRE LN PERSONNEL.

-- HQ 5QF WILL BE DISESTABLISHED AND 313AD
WILL BE RELOCATED FROM KADENA TO YOKOTA. CDR
313AD (DUAL-HATTED AS COMUSJAPAN) WILL BE
UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF 13AF CLARK AFB, P.I.

-- 345 TAS (16 C-130 A/C) WILL BE RELOCATED FROM
KADENA TO YOKOTA. 374TAW PRESENTLY ASSIGNED
AT CLARK AB MAY REPLACE 475ABW AT YOKOTA AND
WILL EXERCISE OPCON OVER 345TAS.

-- REORGANIZATION DOES NOT ENVISION SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES TO AF PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ASSIGNED IN
JAPAN.

-- CONTINUED FULL UTILIZATION OF YOKOTA FACILITIES
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IS ASSURED.

C. USN/USMC FORCES IN JAPAN

-- USN PORT WILL BE CLOSED AND FLEACTS SASEBO DIS-
ESTABLISHED; U.S. POL AND AMMO STORAGE FACILITIES
AT SASEBO WILL BE RETAINED.

-- ONE USMC F-4B SQUADRON WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM IWAKUNI (APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PERSONNEL).

-- SIX USMC RIFLE COMPANIES WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM 3RD MARDIV ON OKINAWA (APPROXIMATELY 1,300 PERSONNEL).

4. IN BRIEFING GOJ, EMBASSY AND USFJ HAVE AGREED ON FOLLOWING CAVEATS:

A. INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON A CLOSE-HOLD, CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

B. FINAL DECISION ON ABOVE CHANGES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE; WHEN FINAL DECISIONS MADE, GOJ WILL BE INFORMED.

C. IT IS NOT ENVISIONED THAT THESE CHANGES WILL BE EFFECTED IN AN PRECIPITOUS MANNER, BUT WILL BE PLANNED SO AS TO AFFORD TIMELY TRANSITION OVER NEXT 24 TO 36 MONTHS.

D. U.S. SIDE PREPARED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GOJ CONCERNING POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THESE CHANGES ON CURRENT CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMS SUCH AS JFAP AND OBCP.

E. THESE CHANGES WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT OUR COMMITMENT TO JAPAN UNDER MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY OR OUR CURRENT AND PROGRAMMED DETERRENT CAPABILITY.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIEF FOREIGN OFFICE ON ABOVE CHANGES FEBRUARY 28, IF IN FACT IT IS PLANNED TO BRIEF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN WASHINGTON MARCH 1. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL COORDINATE WITH DOD TO PRODUCE PARALLEL INSTRUCTIONS TO COMUSJAPAN, PERMITTING HIM TO SECRET

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BRIEF JDA THROUGH HIS CHANNELS AT SAME TIME.

6. WE NOTE THAT AIR FORCE COMMAND CHANGES OUTLINED ABOVE GENERALLY MATCH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT IN STATE 29477, ON WHICH WE COMMENTED REFTEL. WE ALSO HAVE NOTED THE VARIOUS COMMENTS FROM AMBASSADORS SULLIVAN AND SNEIDER. WE THEREFORE REQUEST INFORMATION ON PRESENT STATUS OF PLAN FOR REVISION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE IN LIGHT OF THOSE FIELD COMMENTS.
HODGSON

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. TWOHIE S/S-O.

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